

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 14, 2004. Claims 1-26 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 19-26 were rejected and claims 19, 22 and 23 were objected to. Claims 1-18 were allowed. In this Amendment, claims 19, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claims 1-26 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-26 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Drawings

The objection to the drawings is noted and is corrected in accordance with the drawing change submitted herewith.

Applicant has provided a replacement drawing sheet, including Fig. 1 for the corresponding previously filed drawing sheet. The replacement sheet amends Fig. 1 by inserting the label "Prior Art."

Claim Objections

Claims 19, 22 and 23 were objected to because of informalities.

Applicant has made the appropriate amendments to claims 19, 22 and 23, and believes that the claims are now in compliance with all formality requirements. Accordingly, Applicant requests that any objections to claims 19, 22 and 23 be withdrawn.

§112 Rejections

Claims 19-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended claim 19 as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 20-26 depend from claim 19.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection under §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Allowed Subject Matter

Claims 1-18 were indicated as being allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-18 are allowed.

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which were included at pages 4-5 of the Office Action mailed December 14, 2004. To the extent the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicant's attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicant's contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicant of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicant, by his attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

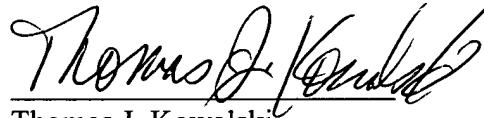
The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

By:



Thomas J. Kowalski

Reg. No. 32,147

Grace L. Pan

Reg. No. 39,440

Tel. (212) 588-0800

Fax. (212) 588-0500